



November 4, 2013

The Honorable Rita Hart
The Honorable Greg Forristall
Co-Chairs, Administrative Costs in Higher Education Study Committee
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: Information Requested for November 5 Hearing

Dear Senator Hart and Representative Forristall:

In response to the Committee's request, Ashford University is pleased to submit the attached information regarding the school's student fees and administrative costs. I regret that I am unable to attend the hearing to present our information, but share the committee's goal of keeping higher education in Iowa affordable and accessible for all students.

At Ashford University we pride ourselves on our academic quality, accessibility and affordability. Keeping overall costs low for both our online and campus students is of utmost importance. In fact, 2013 saw the smallest increase in tuition in several years. Fees are established at rates that cover the University's costs in providing specialized services to our students and have remained consistent over the years. Our student fees provide access to innovative technologies such as the Student Portal, online libraries and other academic resources. For our campus students, the activities fees include access to sporting events and workout facilities. Our Ashford web site and the academic catalog provide students with information on other costs not requested by the committee such as those for textbooks, campus room and board, voluntary prior learning assessments and late fees.

The committee has also requested information on the University's staffing and specified annual spending. Please note that the information provided to you today represents an overall number reflecting both the Iowa campus and support for our online student population across the country. These numbers are reported annually to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) and are available for public review on their web site. Explanatory notes have been added where information may differ between what the Committee requested and what is reported to IPEDS.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide information on how Ashford University maintains affordability for our students and hope that you find this information useful in your discussions. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance to the Committee in the future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Pattenaupe
President, Ashford University